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Title: Need to continue the facility of telephone booths in railway stations for physically challenged.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, thousands of blind and handicapped people are now getting jobs in the Indian Railways by operating the public telephone booths. But recently, it appears that the Government has taken a different view to tender all these booths so that only big corporate and big people will come. All the small people like the handicapped persons will not get the benefit of reservation.

So, I would urge upon the Government to review this policy and continue with the old policy of giving telephone booths in the premises of the Railway Stations, platforms as well as in the nearby areas to the physically handicapped persons including the blind. Otherwise, all these people and their families will be doomed. Many of them have taken loans from banks. So, it will be completely washed away unless the Government takes an immediate decision to rehabilitate them by giving them further extension and also to see that the big corporate are not allowed to compete with such poor people.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I associate myself with this demand.